



REYNOLDSBURG
emmaus COMMUNITY

1636 Graham Road
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

MAY 2009

Return Service Requested



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

STAND UP

IN Mark's Gospel we read an amazing story of the powerful love of Jesus.

Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. (Mark 3:1-5)

There are three things we know from reading this story.

1. We know there was a man who had a very visible need: his hand was shriveled. We have no idea how it got that way or how long it was that way. All we know is that his hand was shriveled.
2. We also know that Jesus was more concerned with acts of mercy than rabbinical hair-splitting. Not only did he desire to help this man but

Jesus was able to do so in a miraculous way.

3. The third thing we know, and this is almost as amazing as the miracle itself, is that there were some present in the worship service that day who were upset that Jesus healed the man with the shriveled hand.

This leads me to ask a very obvious, yet difficult, question: Why would anyone oppose the very work of God in their midst?

If your experience is anything like mine, you probably have had the occasion to encounter negative people. There are those in our families, in our places of employment, and even in our churches that struggle to find joy in life and seem to make it their personal mission to make sure that no one else does either. Apparently the good news bounces off of calloused hearts. The truth is there are people with whom we live, work, and worship that often oppose the very work of God in their midst. How do we deal with that?

In the story, Jesus asks the man with the shriveled hand to stand up. Right there in the middle of the worship service! Jesus asked him to stand up and it occurs to me that He might invite

us to do the same. The way to deal with negative people is to simply stand up.

- Stand up and don't let negative people thwart your calling to perform acts of mercy.
- Stand up and don't let negative people frustrate your resolve to reach those living far from God.
- Stand up and don't let negative people weaken your walk with Christ.

If there were negative people around Jesus I think it's safe to say that there will be negative people around you. How will you deal with them? When negative people get upset when you do something good, will you continue to do something good anyway? When they ridicule you for dreaming God's dreams, will you continue to dream anyway? When they question your motives, your faith, your integrity, will you duck down and hide in fear or will you stand up in faith and follow where Jesus is leading?

Stay close to Jesus,

Dave

**2009 REYNOLDSBURG EMMAUS
COMMUNITY WALK CALENDAR**

Women's Walk #79	May 14-17
Women's Walk #80	July 23-26
Men's Walk #61	October 8-11
Women's Walk #81	November 12-15

*Gatherings - the first Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm
Candlelight - Saturday of each walk at 8:30pm. Meet in the Worship Center
Closing - begins at 4:30pm on the Sunday of each walk. Meet in Kirsch Hall
Note: Children & guests are welcome at gatherings; however, candlelight & closings are for those who have attended The Walk to Emmaus.

Reynoldsburg Emmaus Community Web Site: www.rumc.org/emmas

MEN'S GOOD SHEPHERD - Bill Ulm

In the 24th chapter of Luke, we learn of Cleopas and an unnamed companion joined by Jesus on the way to Emmaus. Jesus reveals himself to the two, their hearts are warmed and they run back to Jerusalem to tell the others of the great news. Sound familiar? Did you ever wonder, as I have who, that unnamed companion happened to be? Maybe we are the unnamed companion. Perhaps Luke was suggesting that future believers as yet unnamed, should be running back to our Jerusalem, wherever that may be, to tell others of the good news. Jesus lives and He died for me! Wow! Isn't it amazing that God values us so highly? Freeing, isn't it? Discuss that the next time you're in share group. I pray your 4th days are blessed.

WOMEN'S WALK #79 LIVE IN TEAM, MAY 14-17, 2009

NAME	ROLE	TALK
David Cady	Spiritual Director	Means of Grace
Kevin Kellogg	Spiritual Director in Training	
TBA	Asst. Spiritual Director	Prevenient Grace
TBA	Asst. Spiritual Director	Justifying Grace
TBA	Asst. Spiritual Director	Obstacles to Grace
TBA	Asst. Spiritual Director	Sanctifying Grace
Elaine Fencl	Lay Director	Perseverance
Sue Allen	Lay Director in Training	
Annie Brown	Asst. Lay Director	Christian Action
Susan Barnhouse	Asst. Lay Director	Priority
Linda Jones	Music Director	
Cindy Eldridge	Technical Director	
Taryn Moyer	Table Leader	Priesthood of All Believers
Megan Dennis	Asst. Table Leader	
Nikki Warner	Table Leader	Life in Piety
Pamela Britford	Asst. Table Leader	
Mindy Goetz	Table Leader	Growth Through Study
Becky Morrison	Asst. Table Leader	
Torri Aprile	Table Leader	Discipleship
Angel Lower	Asst. Table Leader	
Melinda Alic	Table Leader	Changing Our World
Heather Gabel	Asst. Table Leader	
Peggy Newland	Table Leader	Body of Christ
Cyntoria Beckley	Asst. Table Leader	Closing Example
Wilma Ebright	Table Leader	Fourth Day
Lisa Wilcoxon	Asst. Table Leader	Closing Example

EMMAUS BOARD 2009

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PILGRIM	CHURCH NAME	SPONSOR NAME
Mindy Connor	American Baptist Church of Westerville	Troy Connor
Rita Ensminger	Northpointe Community Church	Michelle Myers / Jody Ensminger
Karon Fluharty	Faith UMC	Larry Holter
Cleo Goutselas	Polaris Church	Dave & Sherri Sams
Diane Hansher	Grove City Church of the Nazarene	Tamil Iguchi
Jean Hetrick	St. Thomas Catholic	Imelda Scurlock
Corrinna Houston	New Life Canal Winchester	Nancy & Don BeLoat
Laura Ickes	Reynoldsburg UMC	Jeff & Linda Puckett
Linda Leist		Jewell Beach
Shannon Mangon	Greater Columbus Freewill Baptist	Missi Delozier-Humphrey
Cheryl Marshall	St. John Lutheran	Marta Allen
Michele Mayfield	Reynoldsburg UMC	Kenneth Mayfield
Pam Moody	South Bloomfield UMC	Peggy Hubbell
Laura Mulligan	Brice UMC	David Wells / Jerri McKeer
Jan O'Daniel	Grace Fellowship Grace Brethren	Carol Bucilla
Sharon Petty	Madison Christian	Nancy Mapes
Pat Powell	Walk by Faith Temple	Colette Jones
Evelyn Rawlins	South Bloomfield UMC	Rev. Floyd Hubbell
Suzy Shreve	Fairview Methodist	Larry & Teresa Bond
Teresa Smith	Greater Columbus Freewill Baptist	Greg Smith
Alcy Spitzer	Scioto Ridge UMC	Bradley Spitzer
Leah Stone	Greater Columbus Freewill Baptist	Joni Baugess
Michelle Thivener	Greater Columbus Freewill Baptist	Missi Delozier-Humphrey
Rebecca Wigal		Cap Clegg
Alice Woolever	Village Chapel UMC	Tom & Jane Lynch
Brandi Yeazel		Melissa Jordan
Cindy Zimmerman	Reynoldsburg UMC	Charlene Morris

*Check Emmaus link for Pilgrim updates:
www.rumc.org/emmas/walks/index.html*

EMMAUS COMMUNITY SHARE GROUP INFORMATION

Women's Good Shepherd _____ Men's Good Shepherd _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

SHARE GROUP LOCATION _____

SHARE DAY & TIME _____

SHARE PARTNERS _____

Are you willing to accept additional share partners? yes no

Mail to: Reynoldsburg Emmaus Community
1636 Graham Rd. Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Register your e-mail address at the Emmaus home page:

<http://rumc.org/emmas/>
(enter your e-mail at top right of the home page)

“FURIOUS LONGING OF GOD”

I recently finished reading a book that has had a powerful influence on my faith walk. This book was given to me a couple of weeks ago by my table leader from my pilgrim walk, Men’s Walk #12. While that walk was 16 years ago, I have been fortunate to stay connected to my table leader through our work in sister Methodist churches and the Emmaus Community.

The book’s title is the *Furious Longing of God* by Brennan Manning. The book has had such an impact on me that I am led to highly recommend it to you. It has changed the way I think about God and has given me a new and refreshing perspective on how God looks at me, as well as all His children.

Manning once spent 30 days in silent meditation at a directed retreat. The prayer he prayed for the entire retreat was from the Song of Solomon (7:10). The passage is as follows:

“I am my beloved’s, and his desire is for me.”

Manning has continued to pray that passage for the past thirty years. As a result, he has discovered a number of significant realizations over that time. Let me just share a few:

“Off and on throughout the day, you will just know that you are being seen by Jesus with a gaze of infinite tenderness.”

“And the God I’ve come to know by sheer grace, the Jesus I met in the grounds of my own self, has furiously loved me regardless of my state – grace or disgrace. And why?

For His love is never, never based on our performance, never conditioned by our moods – of elation or depression. The furious love of God knows no shadow of alteration or change. It is reliable. And always tender.”

“God loves me as I am and not as I should be.”

To me, those are powerful statements! No matter what the state I find myself in, no matter how much I beat myself up over my mistakes, my failures and my many “discipleship denials,” to quote Manning: *“God loves me as much as He loves Jesus. Wow!”* Just stop and think about that for a moment! It may take longer than a moment to get your head around that statement!

As we learn on the Walk to Emmaus, the grace that God shows us demands a response. For those of us who have experienced just a glimpse of the love of God, Manning asks *“Are we responding to the love of Jesus living within us concretely and consistently in our love for one another?”*

How do we do that? It is a hard question, but there is a simple answer. Not easy to do, but simple to state: *“Do the next thing in love.”* As our community prepares to welcome the pilgrims of Women’s Walk #79 May 14-17, let’s do just that!

Grace and peace,

Steve Friece, Emmaus Board Chair
Reynoldsburg Men’s Walk #12, Table of Stephen

“There is really no way to experience joy until you decide to take that leap and plunge into God’s hands just like a child jumping into a swimming pool.” Thomas Williams from his book *Following Prince Caspian: Further Encounters with the Lion of Narnia*

Remember your Emmaus Walk? Remember being immersed in God’s unconditional love...now that was a joy swim. I loved swimming as a child. The best part of going to the pool was seeing my friends and spending an entire afternoon swimming, playing in the water and sunning ourselves. What would the Emmaus Community be without sharing God’s love with others, our friends. Make some new friends and bless current friends by sponsoring someone for an Emmaus walk. If you are too shy to take the plunge, come to Sponsorship Training before the June gathering, June 2nd at 6:15. Learning more about sponsorship will help you dive right in.

SPONSORSHIP TRAINING CHANGES

We began Sponsorship Training several years ago to help you as members of the Emmaus community better understand the sponsorship process and to support you in your efforts to bring this amazing experience to as many believers as possible. This training has been very effective in helping to better equip both sponsors and pilgrims to gain the most from their Emmaus experience.

We have been conducting sponsorship training before the Emmaus gathering each month after an Emmaus walk. This has caused some confusion in that training dates are not easily predictable or remembered. Your Emmaus board has decided to move Sponsorship Training to every even month. Therefore, training will be held prior to the Emmaus gatherings in February, April, June, August, October and December.

The training will continue to be offered in the chapel at 6:30 pm prior to the gathering, and will last no longer than 45 minutes. This ensures that you will be finished in time to attend the gathering. Our next training class will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 before the April Gathering at 6:30pm. If you have not attended training before or need a quick refresher, please join us that evening.

EMMAUS WALKS

How will you be the hands and feet of Christ? Sign-up sheets are displayed in the Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church kitchen and in St. Andrew’s Hall on the Gathering evenings or call the board representative. Christ gave His life for you. Will you give you hands and feet for Him?

- 24-hour Prayer Vigil
- Carry Luggage
- Bedtime Agape
- Mealtime Agape
- Logistics: Set-up, clean, tear down
- Agape Room
- Kitchen
- Attend Candlelight
- Write Pilgrim Agape

Are you persevering in your walk with Christ? Are you utilizing all the tools you learned on your Walk to Emmaus?

- Seek Discipleship Opportunities
- Serve the Emmaus Community
- Use the Reunion Group Card
- Sunday School Attendance
- Share Group Attendance
- Daily Morning Devotions
- Bible Study Attendance
- Daily Morning Prayer
- Study the Scriptures
- Serve Your Church
- Worship Attendance
- Daily Meditation

2009

NOTE: The normal Gathering date of the first Tuesday of the months in April falls during Holy Week. Since so many of our community will be actively serving in their home churches, the April Gathering will be on Tuesday, March 31.

GATHERINGS (7:15pm)

- June 2
- July 7
- August 4
- September 1
- October 6
- November 3
- December 1

WALK DATES

- Women’s #79
May 14-17
- Women’s #80
July 23-26
- Men’s #61
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